Justice Reinvestment Local Government Commission



Subject: August 2018 Meeting Minutes

Date: August 29, 2018

12:30 p.m. -2:00 p.m.

Board members: Robert Green (chair), Emerson Davis, Lt. Timothy Fridman, Matthew Barrett, Randy Martin, Joseph Ryan, Herbert Dennis, Mary Lou McDonough, Ronnie Howard, Lt. Richard Wiersberg, Jordan Lysczek

Absent: Lt. Dan Lasher, Sheriff Jim Dewees, James Proctor, Don Satterfield, Jack Kavanaugh, Lamonte Cooke, Lt. Peter Wild, Corey Pack, Lisa Thayer Welch, Esq,

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention: Angelina Guarino, Senior Director of Justice Reinvestment & Jeffrey Zuback, Chief of Research and Analysis

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Green at 12:30.

II. Implementation updates

Angelina Guarino presented updated data on 9 month JRA performance measures, noting a 1.3% decrease in the state prison population and a 2.4% decrease in the active supervision population. Open supervision cases, which include those in abatement status, rose by 13.7% since JRA's inception, potentially due to a decrease in clients being revoked for technical violations. Since the effective date, 1,579 instances that would have qualified as a technical violation were addressed using the Department of Public Safety's series of graduated sanctions and responses. As a result there were only 241 notifications to the court requesting a hearing for a violation. Of the technical violation hearings held over the same period 86% of sentences were in line with the JRA-instituted sentence limits. An overview of state data identified that most of the inmates released early from non violent sentences through the administrative parole are being released on the local level, contributing the 16% fall in local detention populations across the state due to JRA. Despite declining populations, the majority of local detention is due to pretrial detention, which has increased on average largely due to changes in release decisions.

III. Local Data Trends

Jeffrey Zuback presented updated data on statewide pretrial population sizes reported under JRA's mandata to track and study pretrial detention in Maryland. For the past two years, GOCCP has collected an annual in-depth snapshot of pretrial detention populations. It has used this data in the planning and awarding of the pretrial services grant program, beginning in FY19. To identify local drivers of incarceration and JRA's impact on them, the office is consistently monitoring factors such as average length of stay, ratio of detained to released defendants, trends in duration of pretrial detention, and reasons for detention. Mr. Zuback presented a draft to the office's model for engaging with this information, an interactive dashboard summarizing state level trends over 8 years and a detailed year over year analysis, and responded to questions and comments from the group. County level numbers were broken out to brief Board members on their county's trends and inform decision making. Board members requested more time to review the dashboard and provide feedback, including briefing other local stakeholders and corrections staff before public release. GOCCP agreed to a 30 day testing period after additional internal approval. The Board was encouraged to recommend other aspects of JRA that could be made accessible to the public in this manner. Potential applications for this data set included local formation of pretrial service programs and management of existing programs to respond to changing population sizes.

IV. Discussion of Local Needs

The primary need reported by Board members was for more reliable, centralized information of JRA impacts on the local level. Access to timely data would assist in planning and coordination of efforts, and would help identify which counties had benefited from successful programs.

V. Good of the Order & Adjournment

The Commission was advised that all materials discussed would be disseminated and published on GOCCP's website. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.